

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 93

By Pruitt

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Meharry Medical College's Department of Psychiatry upon the celebration of its fiftieth anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is most appropriate that the members of this General Assembly honor those extraordinary institutions of higher learning that promote mental health in a manner that has garnered universal acclaim; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable institution is Meharry Medical College's Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, which will be celebrating its fiftieth anniversary this year at the second annual Lloyd C. Elam Conference on March 25, 2011; and

WHEREAS, hosted by the Meharry Medical College Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences in conjunction with the Mental Health Association of Middle Tennessee, the Lloyd C. Elam Conference will feature such noteworthy speakers as Bankole Johnson, M.D., Ph.D.; Peter Martin, M.D.; James Powers, M.D.; Scott Ridgway, M.A.; and James Vandiver and will cover a wide variety of relevant and riveting topics, including Ethics, Suicide Prevention, and Healing Addictions, among others; and

WHEREAS, always adhering to Meharry Medical College's creed of "Worship of God Through Service to Mankind", the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Science is committed to upholding the highest standards in training, researching, and providing clinical services to the community; and

WHEREAS, dedicated to the elimination of inequality in health care, the Department's faculty and staff expertly focus on meeting the unique needs of disadvantaged and minority populations while masterfully training the next generation of health care providers to render services in a professional and empathetic manner; and

WHEREAS, this exceptional Department was founded in 1961 by Lloyd C. Elam, a remarkable leader who rendered twenty-five years of sterling service to Meharry College as a faculty member, Chairman of the Department of Psychiatry, Interim Dean of the School of Medicine, Distinguished Service Professor and Chancellor, and the school's sixth President; and

WHEREAS, a native of Little Rock, Arkansas, Dr. Elam earned his undergraduate degree at Chicago's Roosevelt University in 1950, and in 1957, after serving his country with the courage and conviction of a true patriot in the United States Army, he became the first African-American to receive an M.D. from the University of Washington School of Medicine; and

WHEREAS, during his exemplary tenure at Meharry College, Dr. Elam established the Community Mental Health Center (now called the Dr. Lloyd C. Elam Mental Health Center), Matthew Walker Comprehensive Health Center, Meharry Comprehensive Sickle Cell Center, Respiratory Therapy Department, School of Allied Health Professions, several interdisciplinary Ph.D. programs, and the Master of Science in Public Health program; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Elam poured his heart and soul into every task he undertook, investing his life in his patients, students, residents, and colleagues and transforming the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Services into the paragon of excellence it is today; and

WHEREAS, for half a century, Meharry Medical College's Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences has positioned itself as a premiere institution for higher learning by offering an unparalleled medical education to thousands of students, who, in turn, have improved their communities, state, and nation; and

WHEREAS, the mental health and well-being of every Tennessean is of paramount importance, and the people of this State are fortunate indeed to be served by the caring faculty, staff, and students of Meharry Medical College's Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Meharry Medical College's Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Science for fifty years of dedicated service to the State of Tennessee. We commend its outstanding faculty and staff for their ongoing commitment to ensure the good mental health of their fellow citizens

and extend to them our best wishes for every continued success and happiness in their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.